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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/675,096	09/30/2003	David W. McKnight	16112RRUS01U (NORT10-0034)	4806
33000	7590	12/03/2004	EXAMINER	
DOCKET CLERK P.O. DRAWER 800889 DALLAS, TX 75380			RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/675,096	Applicant(s) MCKNIGHT ET AL.	
	Examiner Melur Ramakrishnaiah	Art Unit 2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11-30-2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. For example independent claim 2 recites the following: further comprising allowing the second access to continue based partially on at least one of the first pass code and a second pass code and claim 3 recites the following: further comprising receiving the second pass code from the first access. According to independent claim 1, it appears that Conference Bridge receives only one pass code and others to access the bridge subsequently use this pass code. There is no mention of second pass code required by the bridge to secure it, much less using the second pass code to access it by others. The same situation remains with claims 9-10, 16-17.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by McLeod et al. (US PAT: 5,555,290, hereinafter McLeod).

Regarding claim 1, McLeod discloses a method for call conferencing, comprising: detecting a first access to a conference bridge operable to support a conference call, receiving a pass code from the first access, and securing the conference bridge (51, fig. 2) using the pass code received from the first access by allowing a second access to the conference bridge, the second access based at least partially on the pass code from the first access (figs. 2, 19, col. 33, line 25 – col. 34, line 15).

Regarding claim 8, McLeod discloses an apparatus for call conferencing, comprising: one or more ports operable to receive at least one channel of a plurality of channels for a conference call, and one or more processors (not shown) collectively operable to: detect a first access to a conference bridge operable to support the conference call, receive pass code from the first access, and secure the conference bridge (51, fig. 2) using the pass code received from the first access by allowing the second access to the conference bridge, the second access based at least partially on the pass code from the first access (figs. 2, 19, col. 33, line 25 – col. 34, line 15).

Regarding claim 15, McLeod discloses a computer program on a computer readable medium and operable to be executed by a processor, the computer program comprising computer readable program code for: detecting a first access to a conference bridge (51, fig. 2) operable to support a conference call, receiving a pass code from the first access, and securing the conference bridge using the pass code received from the first access by allowing a second access to the conference bridge, the

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second access based at least partially on the pass code from the first access (figs. 2, 19, col. 33, line 25 – col. 34, line 15).

Regarding claims 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, McLeod further teaches the following: pass code comprises a first pass code, and allowing the second access to continue based partially on at least one of the first pass code and a second pass code, receiving the second pass code from the first access, prompting a participant to identify whether the conference bridge, receiving the pass code in response to the participant indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured, second access is based at least partially on the pass code from the first access when the conference bridge is secured, identifying the first access as being associated with a chairperson (reads on conference scheduler), and wherein receiving the pass code from the first access in response to determining that the first access is associated with the chairperson, the one or more processors (not shown) are further collectively operable to allow the second access to continue based at least partially on at least one of the first pass code and a second pass code, one or more processors are further operable to receive the second pass code from the first access, prompting a participant to identify whether the conference bridge is to be secured (this step is implicit as the conference scheduler is providing pass code), receiving the pass code in response to the participant indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured, second access is based at least partially on the pass code from the the first access when the conference bridge is secured, one or more processors (not shown) are further collectively operable to authenticate first and second access (figs. 2, 19, col. 33, line 25 – col. 34, line 15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 7, 14, 21, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLeod in view of Sun et al. (US PAT: 6,501,740 B1, hereinafter Sun).

McLeod differs from claims 7, 14, 21, in that although he teaches: prompting the participant for pass code, receiving the pass code and authenticating the users (figs. 2, 19, col. 33, line 25 – col. 34, line 15); he does not explicitly teach the following: receiving an identification of one or more depressed buttons on a communication device associated with the participant, determining whether one or more identified numeric buttons represents a numeric sequence associated with the pass code.

However, Sun discloses system and method for teleconferencing which teaches the following: receiving an identification of one or more depressed buttons on a communication device associated with the participant, determining whether one or more identified numeric buttons represents a numeric sequence associated with the pass code (fig. 3 col. 3 lines 10-28).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify McLeod's system to provide for the following: receiving an identification of one or more depressed buttons on a communication device associated with the participant, determining whether one or more identified numeric

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buttons represents a numeric sequence associated with the pass code as this arrangement would provide well known means of receiving pass codes for authentication of the conferees as taught by Sun.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (703) 305-1461. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00; every other F Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703)305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Melur Ramakrishnaiah
Primary Examiner
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